



The President's Daily Brief

5 September 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ethnic Cambodians may be joining the Communists.
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A Thai Army task force has conducted a successful counterinsurgency operation. (Page 2)

The South Vietnamese Government may have to get tough with veterans. (Page 3)

King Husayn continues his efforts to calm both sides of the government-fedayeen dispute. (Page 4)

The Soviet Army may soon be working with the SA-6, a new mobile SAM. (Page 5)

The Third Nonaligned Summit closes out the second decade of nonalignment. (Page 6)

Occidental Oil and the Libyan Government have worked out an agreement. (Page 8)

Marxist Senator Allende gets more votes than his two opponents but is dependent on Congress to elect him president. (Page 8)

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CAMBODIA

[redacted] villagers from the Prek Tameak area, northeast of Phnom Penh, have claimed that ethnic Cambodians made up two thirds of the enemy force that attacked Prek Tameak late in August. According to the report, the villagers were told that the attackers' mission was to infiltrate close to the capital. Village headmen gave them food and shelter, and some local youths allegedly joined the Communists because of their hostility toward both South Vietnamese and government troops, who had engaged in looting and other abuses.

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[redacted]
[redacted] At the time of the battle for Prek Tameak the Cambodians apparently believed that the Communist force was made up primarily of Vietnamese. There was no indication [redacted] that Communist main force units were involved in the fighting. [redacted]

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According to a press account, however, a Cambodian Army officer said yesterday that a recent enemy attack "east of Phnom Penh" was carried out by Cambodian Communists. He may have been referring to Prek Tameak. Meanwhile, intercepted government messages indicate that small groups of enemy troops are still near Prek Tameak, and may be planning to strike even closer to Phnom Penh.

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THAILAND

A Thai Army task force conducted a successful counterinsurgency operation against the principal insurgent stronghold area in northern Nan Province along the Thai-Lao border during 16-25 August. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

It took the insurgents completely by surprise. Fourteen enemy cadre were captured and several others killed, without significant loss to government forces.

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The operation should boost Thai morale in a region where the insurgents had enjoyed consistent tactical successes. Insurgency continues to spread in the north, however, and it will take more than one success to rectify the situation.

In the northeast, the insurgent movement is continuing to rebound from the losses it suffered two years ago. The Communists have maintained a level of activity there that has been markedly higher this rainy season than last.

Most of this activity has been organizational rather than military in nature, and the Communists appear to be concentrating on strengthening their support bases while extending their influence into new areas of the interior. [REDACTED]

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SOUTH VIETNAM

Shootings between police and veterans occurred twice on 3 September. Several were wounded on each side, as were three US military policemen. Police forces required assistance from army troops to help push the veterans out of an abandoned government building.

The government has been reluctant to adopt a more forceful stand toward veterans, even these unusually militant groups, because it knows veterans generally are likely to have the sympathy of the army.

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JORDAN

King Husayn's appeal for order Thursday night seems to have been largely designed to buy time. As he has often done in times of crisis in the past, the King adopted a position of impartiality and placed actual responsibility for handling the situation on the shoulders of the cabinet.

Husayn asked the cabinet to get in touch with the central committee of the fedayeen, and he directed the government and the fedayeen leaders to work jointly to "contain the sedition" and ensure public safety. After the situation is under control, the cabinet is to implement the agreement of 10 July between the government and the fedayeen.

That agreement included provisions prohibiting the presence of armed fedayeen or fedayeen bases in cities, therefore its enforcement could well be impossible without a major military operation. The King made no threats indicating that he might be considering such a step, but the fact that he went out of his way to heap praise on the army and on his chief of staff was probably intended to serve as a warning to the fedayeen.

negotiations could drag on for some time without concrete results. In the interim, isolated incidents probably will occur, and any one of them could easily get out of hand.

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USSR

The latest satellite photography shows launchers and radars associated with the SA-6 mobile surface-to-air missile system at the Korosten army barracks in the western USSR.

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THE THIRD NONALIGNED SUMMIT

The gathering of nonaligned leaders in Lusaka on 6-10 September marks the successful culmination of a two-year effort on the part of Yugoslav President Tito to stir new interest in the moribund nonaligned movement. What began more than 20 years ago under the auspices of Tito and Nehru as a theoretically noninvolved bloc between the two superpowers has largely disintegrated because of the march of events. During the two decades some nations have become more nonaligned than others. At most, what the nonaligned states now have in common is a ritualistic opposition to "imperialism" shrewdly mixed with a desire to profit from all sides to further their own nationalism.

The diversity of interests among the non-aligned states, the growing detente in East-West relations, and the end of most colonial rule in Africa took much of the punch out of nonalignment. Indeed, the movement appeared to be on the verge of extinction. However, a number of world events--the military coup in Greece, the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia, the war in Indochina, and the Middle East crisis--convinced Tito that nonalignment should be renewed. He has actively campaigned since 1968 for a third nonaligned summit conference.

Seventy-four nations have been invited to attend the Lusaka summit, 46 are known to have accepted, and the total attending may be as many as 64. The summit is being billed as the "largest assembly of heads of state and government ever."

Most of the resolutions will be hammered out during the first two days of the meeting which will be conducted at the foreign minister level. The conference probably will open with a dispute over the seating of the rival Cambodian and South Vietnamese delegations. Supporters on both sides want to prevent a long polemical tirade over the credentials controversy, however, and the best bet is that the issue will be buried in committee.

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In an effort to avoid the friction and tension which marred previous nonaligned conferences, a clearly defined agenda has been drafted which is broad enough for all participants to accept. A number of resolutions undoubtedly will be published, including a denunciation of the war in Indochina, support for the Palestinian cause, and condemnation of the remnants of colonialism in Africa, and possibly a resolution in support of Chinese representation in the UN. There will be a general review of the international situation with declarations and discussions on strengthening peace, the democratization of international relations, the safeguarding of national independence, and disarmament. The conferees also are expected to give a positive endorsement to the first 25 years of the United Nations.

Despite the ambitious bill of particulars, the nonaligned really agree on few major issues. The final results of the conference will undoubtedly reflect the lowest common denominator. There will be a heavy emphasis on the broadest possible issues, but a muting of specific problems which tend to underscore the limitations and the doubtful future of nonalignment.

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NOTES

Libya: Occidental Oil has worked out a settlement with the Libyan Government that will increase Occidental's payments to Libya from \$1.05 to a minimum of \$1.20 per barrel. The agreement also will permit the company to resume production at the 800,000 barrel-per-day level which prevailed before the cutbacks earlier this year. The new posted price undoubtedly will now be the minimum price that the Libyan Government will accept from other oil producers.

Chile: Although the count has yet to be officially verified, and although Congress has to meet on 24 October and choose between the two front-runners, the final results of yesterday's presidential election as released by the government indicate that Marxist Senator Salvador Allende has a very good chance of becoming the next president of Chile. In his victory speech, Allende disavowed a "spirit of vengeance" against his opponents, renewed his pledge to head a "revolutionary government" that would be the precursor of a "new socialist society," and presented a plea for domestic peace and tranquility. In spite of his plea, Allende may find himself the catalyst that will trigger prolonged turmoil.

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